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Buffalo District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lecture series brings history of region to life

BUFFALO, N.Y. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District will host the first of its annual Winter Lecture Series, *"We dug up the past—see who we found,"* on January 14 at 1 p.m. (weather permitting) at the William B. Hoyt II visitor center at the Mount Morris Dam.

This lecture titled *"Walking with My Ancestors"* is presented by Melissa Carr attired in Native American dress. Carr and her family come from the Akwesaseae (St. Regis) reservation and the Six Nations, also known as the Oshweken. Carr is Mohawk and a member of the Snipe Clan. She introduces the viewers to her ancestors, their customs, music and dance.

"I have dedicated my life to educating people about my culture and Native Americans," Carr said.

Other lectures will continue every Saturday at 1 p.m. until April 1, 2006. Lectures are expected to last one to two hours.

"Without the hard work of Lyn Oliver and the volunteers, the 2006 lecture series would not have been possible," said Patricia Hixon, Mount Morris Dam park manager. "Lyn was essentially given a topic and she pulled everyone together and made it happen."

"Each year this series becomes more interesting, and it is a testament to the hard work of the volunteers and the staff at Mount Morris Dam," said Pat Jones, spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Buffalo District. "This year's series explores the history of the region and really shows mettle of western New Yorkers."

All programs and tours at Mount Morris Dam are free and open to the public. The Visitor Center winter hours are, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is located off Route 408, approximately two miles south of Mount Morris.

Lecture schedule:

January 21: Knock, Knock Who was there in St. Helena”

Speaker: Cal Degolyer

Degolyer presents a virtual tour of whom and what were in the tiny hamlet of St. Helena.

January 28: Unusual Historical Anecdotes of the Genesee Valley

Speaker: Craig Braack

Braack extends his program to include people from Allegany County and the Genesee Valley region.

February 4: Is there a Doctor in the House/Valley?

Speaker: Liz Meacham

Meacham, in costume, performs as Dr. Cordelia Greene—the first woman doctor in the area. The program includes quotes, photos, artifacts and conversations.

February 11: Tomboy of the Air

Speaker: John Babbitt

Babbitt unveils the life of Blanche Stewart Scott, a female aviator from Rochester, who was recently inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame.

February 18: Prominent Portageville Persons or were they?

Speaker: John Quinn

Quinn, Squeeze Box Johnny, entertains the audience with tales of both prominent and colorful characters of the 1940s.

February 25: Just a Peek at who was in Wyoming County

Speakers: Ron and Denise Ballinger

The Ballingers, enthusiasts of Wyoming County, acquaint visitors with remarkable people from the area.

March 4: Johnny Carter, Nunda’s Horatio Alger Story

Speaker: Joan Schumaker

We hear it over and over again. It’s a true Horatio Alger story, rags-to-riches, it could only happen in America. But, who was Johnny Carter? Schumaker submits a true American success story.

March 11: Benjamin Franklin Angel—NO Angel

Speaker: David Parish

Parish exposes the ridicule and humiliation experience by Geneseo's infamous character Benjamin Angel.

March 18: Famous in their Time—but Almost Forgotten

Speaker: Tom Roffe

Roffe's program explores the Allen family, a group of Thrill Entertainers.

March 25: Introducing John Wesley Powell—he made a name for himself

Speaker: Terry Mistretta

Mistretta presents the life and adventures of this Mount Morris native. While Powell is most widely known as the first explorer of the Colorado River, he also made significant contributions as an administrator and as an advocate for conservation and careful planning in the use of western lands.

April 1: Wouldn't Fly by Today's Standards

Speaker: Loretta Morrell

Morrell examines the life of John James Audubon. Bird identification was quite different from today's methods.

For more information about this program check our website at "<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil>" or to schedule a tour of Mount Morris Dam, contact the Visitor Center at 585-658-4790.